

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the office action mailed on April 22, 2005. In the office action, claims 1, 4, 5 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,092,935 (Althaus et al.). Claims 2, 3, 6-11 and 17-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicates that claims 21-23 are allowed. It appears that claim 24 should be allowed as well as it depends from allowed claim 23.

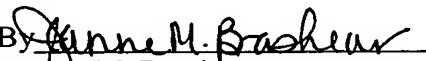
In response, claims 2, 4, 6 and 15 and 17 have been canceled and claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 16 and 18 have been amended. Claim 1 now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 2 rendering claims 1, 3 and 12-14 allowable. Claim 5 has been combined with original claims 1 and 6 to render claim 5 allowable. Claim 7 has been combined with original claim 1 to render claims 7 and 8-11 all allowable. Claims 16 and 17 have been combined to render claim 16 allowable. Original claim 16 has been added to claim 18 to render claims 18-20 allowable. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 5, 7-11, 16 and 18-20 are allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 21 -23 are allowed. Claim 24 depends from allowed claim 23.

An early action indicating the allowability of claims 1, 3, 5, 7-11, 16 and 18-24 of this application is earnestly solicited.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: May 27, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Jeanne M. Brashear

Registration No.: 56,301
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300
Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300
Agent for Applicant